

# Bringing Heaven to Earth: A Glimpse of Heaven Pastor James Bell

Our closing series for the end of 2025 comes in perfect timing to end this year and bring us into a new year. I would refer to this as ending well and beginning well. This series will come with a disclaimer as most of our other series have but this word is crucial for understanding:

•What have you been looking for spiritually that you haven't seen taken place within your life yet? The Spirit of the Lord declares that He opens and closes doors that man cannot fathom. His timing is purposeful and because of your obedience, this seed will bring forth the more that He has placed within your Spirit. Because of the promise of more, His word is everlasting! Take this few moments remaining to prepare your heart for the seed. This preparation is your intentional actions that will produce the harvest to ready the multitude for His return. Harvest time is upon us.

This will be a word that you will be reminded of throughout this series and a word that must be taken with great intentionality as the end of this age is quickly approaching. I'm reminded that at His return:

Matthew 24:37–42 NLT

37 "When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day. 38 In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. 39 People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes. 40 "Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the other left. 42 "So you, too, must keep watch! For you don't know what day your Lord is coming.

We live in a time just as the days of Noah...No one is aware of what is going on. People have no revelation. No revelation of the Lord's return. And just as profound as that...they have no revelation of Heaven. Oftentimes Heaven is viewed as a place. And I'm not saying that it's not but the fact that people have no idea of what Heaven is

or what it is comprised of. It's viewed as a place where those that believed will go and reside with the Lord of Heaven's army. But it is so much deeper than that. So to begin this series we will speak about getting a glimpse of Heaven.

Heaven should be viewed in the perspective of God's presence rather than a physical location. If we would shift our understanding and view of Heaven to God himself, then the depth of this series will introduce a change within us that will manifest outwardly. It will bring about revival within us and will spread like a wildfire all around us. A glimpse of Heaven is our introduction to knowing God. Knowing God is so much more than an abstract knowledge, it is an intimate knowledge. To better understand that statement let's look at it in this light. An abstract knowledge is knowing by reading and researching while an intimate knowledge is by experiencing him. When we know God intimately, we have an understanding that reading and researching cannot articulate.

John 17:1–3 ESV

1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

What is another word that we could use in place of eternal life? It should be obvious since we are speaking on the topic of Heaven. But what makes it even more obvious is that in verse one Jesus lifted His eyes to heaven, and said Father. Heaven is God himself!

So if we re-word these verses it would read like this:

John 17:1–3 ESV

1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to God, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give heaven to all whom you have given him. 3 And this is heaven, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

A glimpse of Heaven is knowing God. Not a knowing of by name but a knowing that implies experiencing intimacy with him. Heaven is not the escape of death. It is unbroken fellowship with God. Heaven is not a life that goes on forever. Heaven is the quality of life here and now. This is found only by a personal relationship with God. This is Heaven on earth.

But how would one come to experience him intimately?

Ephesians 1:16–17 NLT

16 I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, 17 asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God.

What must we do? Ask God to give! Asking means we are petitioning. We are making our request made known. But our hearts have to be of a pure motive in our asking!

James 4:2–3 NLT

2 ...you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. 3 And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

Ephesians 1:17 “17 asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God.”

The word give is translated as charis, which means grace. His grace is His empowerment that gives us the ability to do what truth demands. He will grace you with wisdom and insight. But what kind of wisdom and insight? SPIRITUAL!

Proverbs 1:7 NLT

7 Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Wisdom and revelation come from our Fear of God.

Proverbs 2:1–5 NLT

1 My child, listen to what I say, and treasure my commands. 2 Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding. 3 Cry out for insight, and ask for understanding. 4 Search for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasures. 5 Then you will understand what it means to fear the LORD, and you will gain knowledge of God.

Listen: Even when it's not what we want to hear.

Treasure: Take to heart. Let my commandments be your treasure.

Tune: Adjust your positioning. Change what you have been hearing. Remove the static of what you hear by fine tuning.

Concentrate: Incline or be intentional. Turn your attention to.

Cry out / Ask: Request or plea

Search: Pursue. Look for. Seek

When we do these things, then we will understand what it means to fear the Lord, then we will gain knowledge. The question we have to ask ourselves...Are we fulfilling this list? This list leads us to the beginning of knowledge but Peter said we could grow in knowledge. Let's see what Peter is proclaiming to our hearts.

2 Peter 1:2-9 NLT

2 May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord. 3 By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. 4 And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires. 5 In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. 8 The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.

- Moral Excellence can be defined as the greek word areté. It means, courage, fortitude, resolution.

- Knowledge is known as “Practical Wisdom” And we could make this real simple and use the understanding of the word practical is something that is practiced, Or place in motion. To act out or to exercise. Wisdom is also a simple term but is often time hard to understand. Wisdom is applying what you know. Sometimes wisdom is momentarily and sometimes wisdom requires persistency, meaning it is continual.

- Self-control is translated as temperate. And temperate means to show moderation or self-restraint. And this leads us back to the word self-control. If we could flip the word around it may give us better insight. To control one's self. Self Control can be viewed in this simple form. The controlling power of the individuals will. If we place this in reference to supplementing this to our faith then it is the controlling power of the individuals will under the operation of the Spirit of God.

- Patient Endurance is defined as endurance, patience, perseverance or constancy under suffering in faith and duty. Perseverance is the art of bearing up and pressing on in the face of all that seems to be against us. Enduring trials, tribulation, persecution, and the testing of our faith seems to be a negative subject but the very character that is produced by the one who endures these things, displays and lives by God's heart.

- Godliness is to be devout, godly, piety towards God. Another definition denotes “godly fear” and “reverence toward God”. “No matter how well you plan to stay away from sin, if you don't fear God you'll eventually gravitate toward it.”

- Brotherly kindness: The greek word is Philadelphia: meaning one who loves his brother. Brotherly love. In the NT, used of the love of Christians one to another, brotherly love out of a common spiritual life.

- Love for everyone. A love that the world cannot understand. A love that is unconditional. Love that does not factor in what you can do for me but what I can do for you. Love isn't about ourselves. It is about the other.

And this is how we grow in our knowledge of God. This is how our glimpse of Heaven takes root and grows. Our last few scripture, we have found out that these attributes must be intentional on our part. The knowledge of God and the glimpse of Heaven is there for the taken but God will not force us to know him.

James 4:8 NLT

8 Come close to God, and God will come close to you.

Come close to Heaven and Heaven will come close to you. Who steps first? Then what follows? These words are purposed for action and intent.

Jesus continues in the book of John with a profound declaration that we will conclude with today.

John 17:20–26 NLT

20 “I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. 21 I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. 22 “I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. 23 I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. 24 Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began! 25 “O righteous Father, the world doesn’t know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me. 26 I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them.”

So much to unpack here but if we could look at the key things that Jesus asked and declared for us. The declaration that God and Jesus are one. Do we recall that Jesus said in Luke 17:21

Luke 17:20–21 NKJV

20 Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God does not come with observation; 21 nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”

This is exactly what Jesus was declaring in John 17. The unity of us being on the same page as God. His Kingdom is within us! Heaven is within us! Heaven on Earth is Heaven within us!

As Jesus continued in verse 21, the unity of us being one with God is so that the world will believe the reason of why Jesus was sent. I have graced them with the same grace

you have graced me with. Because we cannot become one with God unless it is through Jesus Christ.

Jesus continues in verse 23 to plea that we would experience this unity. Experience alludes to knowledge by an intimate relationship

Verse 24, So that they may see all the glory you gave me. Heaven becomes visible because Jesus reflected it by his words and works.

He revealed Heaven to them and will continue to do so. Bringing Heaven to earth was our commission that Jesus gave before He ascended to the right hand of God. This is why He stated in Matthew 6:10

Matthew 6:10 NLT

10 May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

The prayer that Jesus taught his disciples and he wants to teach us. Come back next week as we will continue from Matthew 6:10.

Let me pray with you today!